

## **Fishergate Primary School**

### **Policy on Mobile Phone Use for Pupils**

Mobile phones, and particularly smartphones with camera capability, have become increasingly popular in the past decade. We recognise that some of our pupils are likely to own a mobile phone by the time they leave Fishergate. We also recognise that many older pupils will travel to and from school independently, which is an important preparation for secondary school. Parents may wish them to have a mobile phone in order to make contact in an emergency.

However, smartphones are valuable items and there is a risk that they will be lost or damaged, which school cannot take responsibility for. There are also safeguarding risks in relation to pupils videoing or photographing other pupils, unrestricted access to the internet or social media on school premises, and the potential for bullying or inappropriate text messages to be sent between pupils.

For this reason, the school strongly discourages pupils from bringing mobile phones to school unless they have a specific reason for doing so.

To support pupils' developing independence, but to protect all pupils at Fishergate, the school has adopted the following policy on the use of mobile phones by pupils.

- All pupils are strongly discouraged from bringing mobile phones to school unless they have a very good reason for doing so. The ability to make emergency contact on the journey home will be the most likely reason for pupils in older years who travel independently.
- Phones must be turned off at all times on school premises, including in the playground before and after school, and in the cloakrooms.
- Pupils must give their phone to their class teacher first thing in the morning, where it will be kept in the classroom until home time.
- Parents must be advised that the school accepts no responsibility for the loss of or damage to mobile phones. Parents are strongly discouraged from allowing valuable phones to be brought into school.
- Pupils' phones must be clearly marked with their names.
- Parents are readily able to contact the school office in an emergency or to get a message to their children, and will be reminded of this if necessary.

If a pupil is found to be using a phone on school premises during the school day, the phone will be confiscated and stored in the school office. Parents will be contacted, reminded of the school policy and asked to sign a permission slip if they have not already done so.

If any pupil is found taking photographs or videos of other pupils on a phone on school premises, these must be deleted in the presence of a member of staff before the phone is returned to the pupil.

Any inappropriate use of a phone on school premises (eg sending unkind or inappropriate messages, accessing inappropriate content on the Internet) is a serious matter which will be dealt with under the school's Behaviour Policy.

The school reserves the right to withdraw permission for a pupil to bring a mobile phone to school if the above rules are broken.